

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03184 210944Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6823
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3184

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV PINS RH ZA
SUBJ: FURTHER REACTION TO MUGABE PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: (A) LUSAKA 3177; (B) LUSAKA 3163

1. ZANU LEADER ROBERT MUGABE'S NEGATIVE COMMENTS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 19 (REFTEL B) HAS DRAWN ADDITIONAL FIRE, INCLUDING CALLS FOR CONTROLS ON AND DEPORTATION OF "UNGRATEFUL" LIBERATION FIGURES. REACTING TO MUGABE'S CRITICISM OF THE SMITH-KAUNDA MEETING, DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNOR FENWICK CHIFUNDA SAID, "WE CANNOT WATCH FOREIGNERS INSULTING OUR PRESIDENT AND THINK THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH IT. THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA HAVE HAD ENOUGH FROM THESE IMITATIONS OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS, AND WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO STOMACH ANY MORE NONSENSE FROM THEM." HE SAID THE
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 03184 210944Z

ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM IS "TO KICK THEM OUT OF THE COUNTRY."

2. THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL OF OCTOBER 21 LAMBASTS RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS WHO, "WITH ZANU LEADER MR. ROBERT MUGABE TAKING THE LEAD," HAVE BEEN INSULTING ZAMBIA. POINTING OUT THE MANY SACRIFICES WHICH ZAMBIA HAS MADE,

THE PAPER STATES THAT THE MAJORITY OF ZAMBIANS WOULD AGREE WITH CHIFUNDA'S CALL TO DEPORT UNGRATEFUL RHODESIAN BLACK POLITICIANS WHO "PATRONIZE OUR BARS AND HOTELS WHERE THEY SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME GOSSIPING INSTEAD OF PROSECUTING THEIR WAR."

3. IMPLYING THAT THE RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS ("THE CHEEKY CHICKEN-IN-THE-BASKET PLAYBOYS") HAVE BEEN GIVEN TOO MUCH FREEDOM, COMPARED WITH THE SITUATION IN OTHER FRONTLINE STATES, THE MAIL CALLS FOR A BAN ON PRESS CONFERENCES AND TIGHTENED CONTROL OVER THE MOVEMENT OF THE LEADERS OF LIBERATION GROUPS SO THAT THEY "SPEND THEIR TIME ONLY IN FIGHTING THE ENEMY AND NOT IN ABUSING THEIR HOSPITALITY IN THIS COUNTRY." THE PAPER ALSO CALLS ON THE PARTY TO "ORGANIZE THE MASSES TO ENSURE THAT THOSE ALIENS WHO MAKE INSULTING REMARKS ON US ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LIVE IN THIS COUNTRY."

4. COMMENT: THE ATTACK BY THE DAILY MAIL, WHICH HAD TAKEN A NEUTRAL STANCE ON MUGABE'S REMARKS, IS IN ACCORD WITH THE LINE TAKEN BY THE PARTY- OWNED TIMES A DAY EARLIER (REFTEL A), AND SERVES AS A SIGNAL TO THE RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS (I.E., ZANU SPECIFICALLY) THAT THEY BETTER SHAPE UP OR THEY MAY BE SHIPPED OUT. IT MAY BE THAT THE CASTIGATION OF THE "UNGRATEFUL" REFLECTS ZAMBIAN EXASPERATION WITH NATIONALIST
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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 03184 210944Z

BACK-BITING AND SOMEWHAT OF AN OVERREACTION TO CRITICISM OF THE SMITH-KAUNDA MEETING. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT COULD ALSO BE A PREPARATION AND JUSTIFICATION FOR DUMPING MUGABE AND ZANU.
CLINGERMAN

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